

**B. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1           1.       (currently amended) A game racquet extending along a longitudinal axis  
2   and having a string bed, the racquet comprising:  
3                   a head portion supporting the string bed;  
4                   a longitudinally extending handle portion formed separately from the  
5   head portion, one of the head portion and the handle portion having at least first and  
6   second spaced apart inwardly extending channels, and the other of the head portion and  
7   the handle portion having at least first and second ribs, the first and second ribs  
8   positioned to generally align with the first and second channels; and  
9                   at least first and second panels each including shock and/or vibration  
10   reducing material, the first and second panels disposed between, and separating, the  
11   first and second ribs and the first and second channels to form first and second  
12   engagement locations, respectively, the first rib, the first panel and the first channel  
13   configured to inhibit transverse relative movement of the head portion with respect to  
14   the handle portion at the first engagement location in the direction normal to a plane  
15   defined by the string bed.

1           2.       (original) The racquet of claim 1, wherein the second rib, the second  
2   panel and the second channel are configured to inhibit transverse relative movement of  
3   the head portion with respect to the handle portion at the second engagement location in  
4   the direction normal to a plane defined by the string bed.

1           3.       (original) The racquet of claim 1, wherein the handle portion includes  
2   first and second diverging arms, wherein the first diverging arm includes one of the  
3   first rib and the first channel, and wherein the second diverging arm includes one of the  
4   second rib and the second channel.

1           4.       (original) The racquet of claim 1, wherein the head portion includes a  
2 hoop having an outer periphery, and wherein the hoop includes either the first and  
3 second channels or the first and second ribs.

1           5.       (original) The racquet of claim 1, wherein the head and the handle  
2 portions are secured to the first and second panels.

1           6.       (original) The racquet of claim 1, wherein the absorbing material is  
2 formed of a material selected from the group consisting of natural rubber, synthetic  
3 rubber, butyl rubber, urethane, and combinations thereof.

1           7.       (original) The racquet of claim 1, wherein the racquet further includes a  
2 throat portion integrally formed to the head portion.

1           8.       (original) The racquet of claim 1, wherein the head and handle portions  
2 are formed of substantially the same material.

1           9.       (original) A game racquet extending along a longitudinal axis, the  
2 racquet comprising:  
3                   a head portion having at least first and second spaced apart handle  
4 coupling portions;  
5                   a longitudinally extending handle portion formed separately from the  
6 head portion, the handle portion including first and second diverging arms, the first and  
7 second arms having at least first and second head coupling portions, respectively, the  
8 first and second head coupling portions positioned to generally align with the first and  
9 second handle coupling portions, one of the first head coupling portion and the first  
10 handle coupling portion having a first projection and the other of the first head coupling  
11 portion and the first handle coupling portion having a first recess configured to receive  
12 at least a portion of the first projection; and

13                   at least first and second panels each including shock and/or vibration  
14   reducing material, the first panel disposed between, and separating, the first head  
15   coupling portion of the first arm and the first handle coupling portion, and the second  
16   panel disposed between, and separating, the second head coupling portion of the second  
17   arm and the second handle coupling portion.

1           10. 12- (currently amended) The racquet of claim 9 11, wherein one of the  
2   second head coupling portion and the second handle coupling portion has a second  
3   projection, and wherein the other of the second head coupling portion and the second  
4   handle coupling portion has a second recess configured to receive at least a portion of  
5   the second projection

1           11. 13- (currently amended) The racquet of claim 9 11, wherein the coupling  
2   of the first projection and the first recess is configured to inhibit longitudinal movement  
3   of the head portion toward the handle portion.

1           12. 14- (currently amended) The racquet of claim 9 11, wherein the first  
2   projection is a first throat projection outwardly extending from the head portion, and  
3   wherein the first recess is formed by a catch at the first arm.

1           13. 15- (currently amended) The racquet of claim 12 14, wherein one of the  
2   first handle coupling portion and the first head coupling portion further includes an  
3   inwardly extending channel, wherein the other of the first head coupling portion and the  
4   first handle coupling portion includes a corresponding rib, wherein the rib and the  
5   channel couple with the panel at a first location, and wherein the rib, the channel and  
6   the first panel inhibit transverse relative movement of the head and handle portion at the  
7   first location in a direction normal to the plane defined by the string bed.

1           14. 16- (currently amended) The racquet of claim 9 11, wherein the first handle  
2   coupling portion and the first head coupling portion include corresponding generally

3 jagged surfaces configured to inhibit longitudinal relative movement of the head portion  
4 with respect to the handle portion.

1        15. ~~17.~~ (currently amended) The racquet of claim 9 ~~11~~, wherein the head and  
2 the handle portions are secured to the first and second panels.

1        16. ~~18.~~ (currently amended) The racquet of claim 9 ~~11~~, wherein the absorbing  
2 material of the first and second panels is formed of a material selected from the group  
3 consisting of natural rubber, synthetic rubber, butyl rubber, urethane, and combinations  
4 thereof.

1        17. ~~19.~~ (currently amended) The racquet of claim 9 ~~11~~, wherein the racquet  
2 further includes a throat portion integrally formed to the head portion.

1        18. ~~20.~~ (currently amended) The racquet of claim 11, wherein the head and  
2 handle portions are formed of substantially the same material.